

## AQUINAS COLLEGE GOVERNING BODY

Meeting: 15 May 2019

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: The College

### GOVERNORS PRESENT

Miss M Braithwaite, Mrs H Dove, Mr R Harris, Mr P Horton, Mr A Martin, Cllr T P McGee, Mrs J Miller, Mrs A Taylor and Mr M Taylor.

### IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D Pearson (Principal)

Mrs D Blackburn Assistant Principal (Finance)

Mr A Bailey Assistant Principal (Pastoral) Item 5

Mrs D Greenidge Deputy Safeguarding Lead Item 4

Ms C Phillips Director of Standards and Quality Item 3

Mr T Conlon Clerk to the Governing Body

Cllr T P McGee in the Chair

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Dr P Beatty, Mr L Byrne, Mr P Carter, Mr J Horan, Miss S Howard, Dr A Smith and Ms E Urbancova.

#### 2. MISSION/STRATEGIC AIMS OF THE COLLEGE

Mr Pearson circulated a paper that outlined the college's Mission and Strategic Aims for 2018/2019. The paper had been circulated to all members of staff.

The paper included a statement of Purpose, Values and Vision for the college which is as follows "Aquinas College strives to be a Catholic college for the whole community. Christ is at the very heart of our philosophy." This is expressed in the college's commitment to the Gospel values of Freedom, Justice and Love.

The Key Aim of the college is "To prepare students thoroughly for the rigours of assessment and for their next steps in life" whilst the Key Focus is to "Ensure appropriate pitch, pace challenge, rigour practice and student effort inside and outside lessons by;

- a) Developing a culture of independent learning across the college.
- b) Focussing students' attention on learning how to learn.
- c) Setting high expectations for all students with regard to attitudes to learning and Core Values.
- d) Supporting, advising and guiding students in preparation for their next steps.

The Leadership and Management teams have a responsibility to share the aims throughout the college to improve the students' experience in all aspects of college life. After considering the College's Mission Statement and Strategic Aims staff are asked to provide details of three areas which they plan to work on.

### 3. EDUCATION INSPECTION FRAMEWORK (E.I.F)

Ms Phillips circulated a paper that gave details of the Education Inspection Framework (E.I.F) that would be introduced in September 2019. The new framework draws on the knowledge built up through inspection history as well as wider research. There is continuity but also a sharper focus on the quality of education rather than just the data, on the workload for teachers and leaders and wider student experience.

Ms Phillips advised Governors that she had been the Lead Nominee for the college at the last inspection in 2017. In response to a question from a Governor, Ms Phillips outlined what the role entailed.

The judgement areas for overall effectiveness will be a) Quality of education b) Behaviour and attitudes, c) Personal development and d) Leadership and Management.

a) Quality of Education is broken down into three areas as follows:

- i) Intent - Curriculum design, coverage and appropriateness
- ii) Implementation – Curriculum delivery, Teaching (pedagogy), Assessment (formative and summative)
- iii) Impact – Attainment and progress (including national tests and assessments), Reading and Destinations

b) Behaviour and attitudes is broken down as follows:

- i) Attitudes to learning, ii) Behaviour, iii) Exclusions, iv) Attendance and v) Bullying

c) Personal development is broken down as follows:

- i) Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development ii) Fundamental British values
- iii) Careers guidance, iv) Healthy living v) Citizenship, vi) Equality and diversity and vii) Preparation for the next stage

d) Leadership and Management is broken down as follows

- i) Vision and ethos, ii) Staff development, iii) Staff workload and well being, iv) off-rolling, v) Governance/oversight and vi) Safeguarding

The paper also outlined the implications for the college in relation to Planning and Delivery, Self-Assessment and Inspection and The Guiding Principles for Learning, Teaching and Assessment.

Cllr McGee advised Governors that he had recently attended a validation meeting with other colleges and that more information would be made available to the Teaching and Learning Committee.

### 4. SAFEGUARDING/PREVENT UPDATE

Mrs Greenidge circulated a paper that gave details of the definitions of abuse, these included physical, emotional/psychological, mental health, sexual, neglect and prevent. The paper

also gave a summary of the safeguarding issues that college had dealt with during the Autumn Term 2018 and the Spring Term 2019.

Mrs Greenidge advised Governors that many of the safeguarding issues were linked to mental health and had increased each year. The figures for the past 4 years were as follows;

2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019 (2 terms)
56	78	86	65

Mrs Greenidge advised Governors that the counselling service within the college was now available for 5 days a week. There are now 3 counsellors employed at the college, 2 work 2 days a week and the other works one day a week. The role of the counsellors in the college was outlined and it was noted that a student would normally receive 6 sessions of at least half an hour per session. There were 31 students on the waiting list at the end of January 2019. The college were reviewing the service to see if any changes could be made for the new academic year.

Mrs Greenidge added that there had been an improvement in communications with the Healthy Minds team at Stepping Hospital. In addition group therapy assessments had been under taken e.g. bereavement group. Staff had received training from counsellors and an In-service Day in February had been used for pastoral training on emotional abuse.

Mrs Greenidge advised Governors that the priorities for safeguarding in the college are a) to improve the recording system, b) to utilise MyAquinas as a mechanism for reporting safeguarding issues and c) to improve the tracking and monitoring students once a concern has been logged. Mrs Dove (Safeguarding Governor) advised Governors that she attends termly meetings with the Principal and the Safeguarding team and is impressed with what the college are doing, staff show care and concern for the students.

## 5. DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTIONS

Mr Bailey reminded Governors that under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 all schools with a religious nature are subject to an inspection to evaluate the quality of Religious Education and the Catholic nature of the institution. The Diocese is responsible for the inspection. There are concerns about the lack of consistency, rigour, objectivity, oversight and accountability with the inspection.

The inspection will be judged on the following areas:

- a) Catholic Life                      b) Religious Education                      c) Collective Worship

With each area there are three elements, therefore, there are 9 sets of level descriptors.

Mr Bailey advised Governors that Collective Worship was the main area of concern for the college. Miss Braithwaite asked how many students are practising Catholics, Mr Bailey replied that the college had about 50% of the students that were Catholic. Cllr McGee added that it is problem for most Catholic colleges and in some cases 90% of the students were not practising Catholic or Christians.

Mr Bailey advised Governors that the judgement grades for the inspection were i) Outstanding, ii) Good, iii) Requires Improvement and iv) Inadequate. Concern was expressed that the inspectors may not understand the sector. To achieve an Outstanding

grade the college would need to be classed as outstanding or moving towards outstanding in all areas. If any grade is classed as Inadequate, the overall grade would also be Inadequate.

Mr Taylor felt that it was important to use liturgies for example during Lent. Mr Bailey added that it was hoped to move towards students leading prayer. It is an integral part of the college and there is a need to set out expectations. The challenge is to embrace it.

Cllr McGee added that all meetings of the Governing Body and its committees now start with an opening prayer or a moment of reflection. The possibility of training for governors was also raised.

Mr Bailey went on to outline what was happening in college to prepare for the inspection. This included collective worship, mission statement, pastoral care for staff and students, care for vulnerable students, active participation of leadership and management in the Catholic life of the college, the importance of behaviour in learning and religious literacy.

Mr Pearson, Ms Phillips, Mrs Greenidge and Mr Bailey were thanked for their interesting and informative presentations.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

25 June 2019 at 4.30pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chairperson

Date \_\_\_\_\_